

ROY BLUNT  
MISSOURI

VICE CHAIRMAN, SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2508  
202-224-5721

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

700

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE  
AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

August 18, 2017

Received & Inspected

AUG 28 2017

FCC Mail Room

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I recently became aware that you have been invited to view the fiber optic broadband being deployed by Co-Mo Electrical Cooperative as you possibly travel through Missouri in September. I hope your schedule will allow you to accept this invitation.

It is my understanding that your travel is September 19 and 20. September 19 coincides with Co-Mo's celebration of building fiber to their entire service area. Your attendance at the celebration will draw increased interest and attendance from state officials, as well as representatives from a wide cross section of rural Missourians interested in the benefits of broadband.

Under your leadership, the Federal Communications Commission is moving toward final rules for the Connect America Fund (CAF) reverse auction. The final rules of this auction will determine how \$600 million is awarded for rural broadband. I have appreciated your working with me to ensure a cost-effective, balanced approach among stakeholders to extend the highest possible broadband speeds to the greatest number of unserved, rural communities. Rural electrical cooperatives, like Co-Mo, have a strong role to play in closing the digital divide. I am certain you will benefit from seeing their broadband deployment first-hand.

I greatly hope your schedule allows you to visit with Co-Mo on September 19 to see their broadband operations and better understand the role electrical cooperatives play in today's dynamic communications market.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator